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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

March 26, 2004

Mr. Ernest Johnson
Utilities Division Director
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85281

Dear Mr. Johnson:

It has recently come to my attention that the Colorado River is threatened by a plume contaminated by Chromium-6, or hexavalent chromium. News accounts and Mohave County public officials say that the source of the substance is a compressor station owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric and located near Topock, California.

The migration of this plume to within 125 feet of the Colorado River in California has become a matter of serious consternation for the Arizona communities along the River and I believe these developments warrant further inquiry by the Corporation Commission. Specifically, please advise me of the following:

- Are there private water companies currently in service near the Colorado River that could potentially be affected by this plume?
- If there are private water companies nearby, are there steps that should be taken by those companies or by this Commission to protect against potential contamination of their wells?
- Though they do not fall under the regulatory ambit of this Commission, which municipal water systems could be affected?
- Should this Commission consider some sort of intervention in this matter, such as lodging a complaint with the California Public Utilities Commission regarding PG&E's actions? Are there other actions that could be undertaken by the Commission to help the communities of the Colorado River with regard to the PG&E plume?
- What are the implications of this plume to Central Arizona Project and how will it affect the water systems, both private and municipal, that use CAP water?

It appears that pumping is underway by PG&E to begin extracting contaminated groundwater. However, some officials and residents have expressed serious concern that not enough is being done in the short-term to prevent actual contamination of the Colorado River. As a result, in addition to any action taken by this Commission, I intend to write to officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ask them to expedite remediation of the plume.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin K. Mayes', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kristin K. Mayes
Commissioner

Cc: Chairman Marc Spitzer
Commissioner William Mundell
Commissioner Mike Gleason
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Steve Owens
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Mohave County Supervisor Tom Sockwell
Mohave County Supervisor Pete Byers